

Minutes
Wind Lake Management District Board of Commissioner Meeting
July 25, 2019

Present: M. Bluemel, B. Rosenquist, J. Bellante, R. Mayer, R. Schopp, K. Aron and 4 citizens were present.

M. Bluemel called the board meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: R. Mayer motioned to approve the meeting minutes as corrected changing "Lake Patrol to lace and maintain" to "place and maintain", second by J. Bellante, motion carried.

Treasurers Report: R. Mayer gave the treasurers report. Motion by B. Rosenquist to approve, second by J. Bellante, motion carried. The bills have gone out to property owners and checks are beginning to come in.

Information and Correspondence:

K. Aron informed the board that a ditch was dug on the District's property on Muskego Dam Rd during the high water in late spring. Melvin Duve could not reach us to request permission, so he dug it. He now has our contact information and the ditch has been filled in.

Public Comments:

A question was raised as to whether property owners can plant water lilies. Anyone needs a permit from DNR to put plants in the lake.

Another question was asked whether the Town had resolved the issues for posting a Emergency Slow-no-wake. R. Schopp said he would check with the Town.

Old Business:

The plant survey being done by the contractor under the AIS grant is just now finishing up. More locations of SSW in shallow areas are being reported. The far East shore, the NW shore, and the inlet area are very thick. The initial infestation area is staying down in the water column.

K. Aron reported that today a number of people called or emailed to complain about weeds. Unfortunately, the timing is such that she could not do an inspection before this meeting. The complaints will be checked out and followed up on. K. Aron pointed out on the map where the areas are. The NE inlet area is the worst. The problem is the area is loaded with coontail. When the harvester cuts channels for those property owners, the wind from the South pushes the coontail back in.

The next herbicide treatment can be done next week, and the harvester can come in the following week. The plan worked out with C. Helker, DNR, is to harvest the NW shore SSW bed on the last day of harvesting and then follow up with another chemical treatment. M. Bluemel said he has also been getting complaints about the weeds and that it is difficult to even get to Sportsman's.

The board reviewed the draft newsletter, annual meeting agenda and proposed budget. The newsletter has to go out at least 2 weeks before the annual meeting. K. Aron clarified the remaining alum expense and income. The final loan payment will be 2021. The final charges to property owners is included in this year's bill. B. Rosenquist moved to approve the mailing for the annual meeting, including the agenda and budget, 2nd by J. Bellante, motion carried.

The lake patrol was invited to this meeting. K. Aron was told they would attend if possible. They were not present. The court clerk indicated that they are not cutting any deals on citations because not enough citations are being written. The lake patrol is usually on the lake on Saturdays, Sundays, and one day during the week.

New Business:

The issue for tonight's board meeting is to decide what is presented to the annual meeting. There are a lot of important issues to still investigate and it's not a matter to have a vote to go buy a harvester at the annual meeting. That is not the appropriate vote. An appropriate vote is "do we continue to research and gather all the information necessary to know all the costs and property owner charges to purchase a harvester". All of the costs need to be presented to the property owners, including the direct costs to all the

property owners. The information needs to be presented to the board. The board then needs to evaluate and consider it, then vote on how to proceed with hearings and meetings.

M. Bluemel presented costs based on his and B. Rosenquist's research:

- Capital costs for harvester and trailer - \$227,000 (possible grant \$79,450).
- Financing - \$150,000, state fund for 11 to 20 years @4-1/2% is \$15,000.
- Winterizing -\$1000
- Maintenance according to Aquarius, for parts \$100 - \$200 per year for broken teeth
- Cutting - 300 hours June to August, 9 weeks
- Two year truck rental \$2000 per month
- Insurance \$5,000 (Estimate from a personal line agent's estimate)
- Two operators – 300 hours plus 100 hours for manager
- Taxes - 15% workers comp, 10% unemployment
- For truck, \$16 per hour for diesel and oil.
- Total costs - \$31,000 cost to run for 300 hours of cutting plus \$15,000 loan expense; under \$50,000 to cut per year.
- Currently pay \$200 per hour. We would pay \$150 for 300 hours.
- Costs not included above: Storage, which may mean renting a barn somewhere or storing it with the town (R. Schopp indicated this would not be an option), or put it outside on a lot with shrink wrap
- 175 to 200 hours is the break-even point to make it worth our while to own equipment.

K. Aron said the District cut nothing in 2015, 2016 – 50 hours, 2017 – 135 hours, 2018 – 104 hours. Overall, most years we average 6 – 8 days of cutting. R. Schopp asked if we should be cutting more than we currently are. M. Bluemel indicated property owners want to have more harvesting done than what is currently being done.

The scheduling of a contract harvester has been fairly predictable. Cutting is usually the first week in June around Father's Day, then in late –July, early August when the eel grass is starting to float and occasionally in between when the milfoil gets going. Although the contractor has been very accommodating, he has other customers. When we don't need him, he harvests elsewhere. M. Bluemel stated that if we want a harvester working on the lake today, we need our own equipment. However, even that is limited by staff availability.

Issues still to be considered/investigated/resolved:

- Determine how much needs to be harvested versus wants to be harvested
- Someone has to run the program. This includes determination of whether to chemically treat or harvest.
- Someone has to manage the scheduling, staffing, the administrative part of paying the employees and taxes, etc.
- Place to store and maintain equipment / costs
- Off-loading options / costs
- Disposal site options / costs
- Hiring of staff, availability
- Verification of costs for insurance, maintenance, truck rental.
- The annual budget has not been a limiting factor in any previous year.
- Plants must be up before harvesting can be done.
- Determine specific costs that District property owners would be charged, including lake front, canal front, and off-lake property owners
- Determine what can be harvested based on the approved Plan and permit versus the wants of property owners. DNR approved plan and permit takes precedence over property owners' wants. Ramifications of violating the permit include permit revocation and high fines.
- How much to contract in advance for 2020 harvesting
- Property owners' expectations may not be realistic or possible. Shallow areas will never be permitted to be harvested.
- Development and distribution of bid package to purchase equipment

Issues to consider for long term harvesting, whether contract or owned:

- Access to off-load site based on harvesting hours. DNR launch site only available for occasional use. Adjacent lot not suitable because of depth, zoning and distance to cutting area. Former site in Breezy Bay not approved by DNR because of the shallow depths and the sensitive nature of that area. Too far from the main harvesting area.
- Someone has to run the program. This includes determination of whether to chemically treat or harvest.
- Impact of SSW invasion. It seems to be being controlled by the eel grass, especially in the boat launch area.
- Property owners and the board members have a responsibility to notify K. Aron of problems, not just complain at the end of the year.

Three weeks ago there was no place that needed cutting. K. Aron asked for a specific directive: Does the board want the harvester out here for more than the one week? R. Mayer motioned to have the harvester the week of Aug 5th and the 12th, cutting for two weeks if he is available, 2nd by B. Rosenquist, motion carried.

K. Aron asked if there was anything that needed to be added to the annual meeting agenda. M. Bluemel indicated that everyone has been complaining this year that we need more harvesting and we aren't doing it. K. Aron said that is not true. Not a single call or email has come in to the District until today. So, its one thing to say that everyone wants it, but no one contacted her until today. She received calls and emails after the last cutting that it worked out great.. No business can respond immediately to requests. Once a request is received, it is investigated and then an action taken if needed. Even though she has not been able to investigate yet, she has a chemical treatment scheduled for in 3 business days, and a harvester scheduled back in 6 business days. If no one tells her there is a potential problem, then she can't know. The weather also cannot be controlled. Nothing could be done this year prior to June 6th.

The Board reached a consensus that M. Bluemel would present the following to the Annual Meeting:

- The costs for equipment that they presented, along with approx. labor costs that he presented to the Board
- That the other items and costs still need to be determined if the annual meeting attendees agree to proceed.
- That the break even point is about 200 hours.
- We are not approaching an average of 200 hours per season so it would not be a wise financial decision.
- The board will continue to monitor the situation to see if anything is changing

Public Comments:

A property owner at the meeting said they would need to know how much per property owner per year would be needed. Another wanted to know the limitations on harvesting are, and what percent of the lake cannot be cut. One owner thinks if we have our own harvester, that people will expect that all the weeds can be cut anywhere, anytime on the lake.

One property owner indicated that people, including the board, needs to contact K. Aron about a problem. K. Aron pointed out that approved budgeted items do not need further Board approval/contacts to have the work done.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm. Next meeting will be Oct 24, 2019.